

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: I was just curious in your remarks a while ago. How many days a year do you spend in the Legislature?

SENATOR WITEK: In this room, 90.

SENATOR VRTISKA: How much other time do you think you might spend in the Legislature that's not in this room?

SENATOR WITEK: In the building, two to three days a week, on legislative business every single day, every single day.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, you know, I guess I just wanted to comment. You said that county commissioners spend one day a week and they get compensated as well, and I have to tell you that I served a lot of years as a county commissioner and we spent a lot more days than one day a week. And I guess I just wanted to correct that image that sometimes prevails and it not only prevails with the Legislature but it prevails with other elected officials who are not necessarily full time, but in some instances put in a lot more time because they're dedicated to what they do, as senators are. And so I guess I just wanted to correct the image that you made...

SENATOR WITEK: I didn't mean that as a slight to the county commissioners. I'm sure they, like any other elected officials, receive phone calls at all hours of the day and night and work at the job seven days a week. I guess I was just saying that I was not aware until I got to know some of the county commissioners and some of the city council of what their salaries and benefits were and their (interruption).

SENATOR VRTISKA: But you did make the remark that they spend one day a week and they're well paid. Did you not?

SENATOR WITEK: Well, that's true, I did. They're better paid.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, I think it was only fair...

SENATOR WITEK: But they only have to go to a meeting one day. I think Douglas County has record ten-minute meetings, in some